

Message Text

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FOR ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARROP FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, XA
SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE TO AFRICA FOR FY 80 -- IMPACT ON NIGER

REF: A. STATE 224174 B. NIAMEY 3895

1. SUMMARY: OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF THE FUNDING LEVELS FOR ASSISTANCE TO NIGER CITED REFTEL IS THAT THERE WOULD BE LITTLE ADVERSE REACTION HERE. CUTS IN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO NIGER REFLECT ONLY A REDUCTION IN THE NEXT INCREASE PLANNED FOR FY 80, NOT A REDUCTION OF THE OVERALL PROGRAM. PRUDENCE SUGGESTS, HOWEVER, THAT SOME PROVISION FOR PL 480 SHOULD BE MADE FOR FY 79. END SUMMARY.

2. DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE: FUNDING LEVELS CITED RFTL FOR ASSISTANCE TO NIGER (12 MILLION FOR FY 79, \$17 MILLION FOR FY 80) WILL PRODUCE LITTLE IF ANY ADVERSE REACTION IN NIGER. THE FY 80 FIGURE DOES REFLECT A DECREASE OF 1 MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE SPENDING LEVELS PROVIDED IN THE USAID/NIGER COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT (CDSS) PUBLISHED IN MAY 1978. HOWEVER, IT DOES NOT (WE PRESUME) MEAN MAJOR CUTS IN ANY ON-GOING PROJECTS. RATHER IT MEANS THAT EXPANSION OF
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SOME NEW ACTIVITIES MAY HAVE TO BE CURTAILED. WHILE THIS WILL NOT BE BENEFICIAL EFFECTS, IT WILL NOT HAVE THE SHARP NEGATIVE IMPACT THAT AN ACTUAL REDUCTION OF AID FUNDING FOR NIGER WOULD.

3. ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE MAY BE SOME ADVERSE REACTION, ALTHOUGH MUTED, IF NIGERIENS PERCEIVE THAT OVERALL US COMMITMENT TO ASSIST AFRICAN STATES IS DECLINING, HOWEVER UNSCATHED OUR

PROGRAMS HERE MAY BE. IF IT WERE TO APPEAR THAT US COMMITMENT TO THE SAHEL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN PARTICULAR WERE WAVERING, THAT WOULD BE SEEN HERE AS A STRONGLY NEGATIVE POLITICAL SIGNAL.

4. PL-480: TITLE II PL 480 PROJECTED IN REFTEL AT ZERO LEVEL FOR FY 79; FOR FY 80 \$2.6 MILLION IS PROGRAMMED. IN AT LEAST THREE OF THE LAST SEVEN YEARS (INCLUDING THE CURRENT YEAR) NO PL 480 TITLE II HAS BEEN PROGRAMMED FOR NIGER BUT EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN REQUIRED DURING THOSE YEARS. THIS YEAR IN PARTICULAR PROVIDES A LESSON IN DIFFICULTY OF PROJECTING FOOD NEEDS LOCALLY. EVEN THOUGH THERE HAD BEEN TWO PREVIOUS EXCELLENT GROWING SEASONS, ACUTE FOOD NEEDS DEVELOPED DURING THE PAST YEAR FOR WHICH WE ARE PROVIDING ASSISTANCE. PRUDENCE WOULD THEREFORE SUGGEST THAT FOR FY 79 SUFFICIENT RESERVES BE HELD FOR QUICK RESPONSE TO EMERGENCY NEEDS IN NIGER.

5. FMS: SEE REFTEL (B) FOR REPORT ON DEVELOPMENTS WHICH MAY HAVE BEARING ON WHETHER \$55 MILLION IN FMS FOR NIGER IS APPROPRIATE. SO FAR WE HAVE NOT HAD OPPORTUNITY, IN LIGHT OF RAMADAN ACTIVITIES, TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH GON. BEFORE ANY ACTION IS TAKEN TO ELIMINATE \$55 MILLION CITED REFTEL, WE WOULD WANT TO BE SURE THAT GON IS PURCHASING C-130 AIRCRAFT FOR AIR FORCE, AND NOT FOR CIVILIAN AIR LINE (AIR NIGER.)KEOGH

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